

Message Text

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21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 150517Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5486
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2319
EXDIS
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CB
SUBJECT: REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM FROM CAMBODIANS

REF: A) STATE 084161; B) USUN 1189

1. SUMMARY: GKR EMBASSY CANBERRA STILL FUNCTIONING AS OF APR 14 UNDER THIRD SECRETARY MAM NEARIN, WHO ARRIVED IN AUSTRALIA APR 4. NEARIN HAS BEEN URGED BY HIS FORMER EMBASSY COLLEAGUES TO FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE BY RESIGNING AND DENOUNCING GKR, BUT HE HAS DECLINED TO DO SO. WE ADVISED HIM TO SEEK TEMPORARY RESIDENCE IN AUSTRALIA IF GOA RECOGNIZES GRUNK, UNTIL HE CAN MAKE PLANS FOR LONGER TERM. NEARIN IS SON OF FORMER CAMBODIAN PRIME MINISTER SIM VAR, NOW LIVING IN PARIS SUBURB. NEARIN WILL STAND FAST AT EMBASSY FOR TIME BEING BUT HAS ONLY LIMITED FUNDS. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT SEEK TO ARRANGE WITH GKR AUTHORITIES (PERHAPS THROUGH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON) TO PROVIDE NEARING WITH FUNDS TO ALLOW HIM TO OPERATE FOR NEXT FEW WEEKS. END SUMMARY.

2. MAM NEARIN, THIRD SECRETARY OF GKR EMBASSY CANBERRA, WHO ARRIVED IN AUSTRALIA APR 4, CALLED ON POL COUNSELOR APR 14 TO REQUEST ADVICE AND SEEK ASSISTANCE. NEARING SAID HE WAS ONLY OFFICER REMAINING IN KHMER EMBASSY. OTHER THREE OFFICERS HAVE RESIGNED, DENOUNCED GKR, AND RECEIVED TEMPORARY
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RESIDENCE PERMITS WHICH WILL ENABLE THEM TO REMAIN IN AUS-

TRALIA. NEARING WAS CONCERNED BY PRESS REPORTS WHICH INDICATED THAT GOA WAS ABOUT TO RECOGNIZE KHMER ROUGE AND WAS WORRIED ABOUT HIS OWN FUTURE AND THAT OF HIS FAMILY.

3. WE ADVISED HIM TO CONTACT DFA CHIEF OF PROTOCOL IN CASE OF AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION IN AUSTRALIA IN SUCH AN EVENT. WE ASKED HIM TO KEEP US INFORMED.

4. MAM NEARIN SAID HE WAS SON OF FORMER CAMBODIAN PRIME MINISTER, SIM VAR, AND SHOWED US LETTER FROM SIM VAR DATED APRIL 7, WHICH WAS SENT FROM 15 RUE PIERRE BROSOLETT 92300 LEVALLORS-PERRET FRANCE. SIM VAR NOTED HE WAS LIVING IN SOME WHAT STRAITENED CIRCUMSTANCES, MAINLY ON HIS PENISON FROM FRENCH GOVERNMENT DATING FROM HIS SERVICE AS MEMBER OF ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION FRANCAISE, AND URGED HIS SON TO WATCH HIS EXPENDITURES CAREFULLY.

5. NEARIN, WHO HAS WIFE AND FIVE CHILDREN WITH HIM IN CANBERRA, TOLD US FLATLY THAT HE COULD NEVER LIVE UNDER COMMUNISM AND THAT HIS CAREER IS FINISHED. HIS ONLY CONCERN NOW WAS FOR THE FUTURE OF HIS FAMILY. SOMETIME SOON HE MIGHT SEEK US ASSISTANCE IN MOVING FROM AUSTRALIA TO ANOTHER COUNTRY. HE NOTED POINTEDLY THAT ALL HIS CHILDREN SPEAK ENGLISH. FOR PRESENT, HE WILL REMAIN AT GKR EMBASSY AND OPERATE IT AS BEST HE CAN. HE SAID HIS FORMER COLLEAGUES IN EMBASSY, WHO HAVE RESIGNED, HAD URGED HIM TO JOIN THEM IN RESIGNING AND DENOUNCING GKR, BUT THAT HE HAD REFUSED.

6. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION NEARIN SHOWED US SEVERAL CLEAR TEXT CABLES HE HAD RECEIVED FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN PHNOM PENH AND FROM FONMIN KEUKY LIM IN BANGKOK. WE BELIEVE HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SHOW US CABLES SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED.

7. NEARIN REFERRED BRIEFLY TO STATUS OF GKR AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA, CHHUT CHHOEUR, WHO IS CURRENTLY IN NEW YORK AS GKR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN. HE NOTED CABLE OF APR 13 FROM GKR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO CHHUT CHHOEUR (COPY OF WHICH SENT TO GKR EMBASSY CANBERRA) WHICH INSTRUCTED HIM TO RETURN TO CAMBODIA TO RESOLVE SITUATION
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RESULTING FROM RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS OF EMBASSY STAFF. (SEE ALSO REF B). NEARIN NOTED THAT CHHUT CHHOEUR'S HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS IN EMBASSY RESIDENCE CANBERRA WERE BEING SHIPPED TO HIM IN NEW YORK BY AMBASSADOR'S NIECE, WHO IS ATTENDING UNIVERSITY IN AUSTRALIA.

8. NEARIN HAS ONLY LIMITED FUNDS AT PRESENT, AND DEPT MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER ASKING KHMER AUTHORITIES (PERHAPS GKR EMBASSY

WASHINGTON) TO SEE TO IT THAT HE HAS ENOUGH RESOURCES TO SUR-
VIVE FINANCIALLY DURING NEXT FEW WEEKS. FROM WHAT HE TOLD
US, IT APPEARS THAT FORMER GKR CHARGE THEAM TOOK EMBASSY'S
BANK ACCOUNTS WITH HIM WHEN HE RESIGNED LAST WEEK.
GREEN

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER SSO-JOHNSON.

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